

Introduction

Editorial Team of *Colloquium**

The articles of this issue are a selection of the papers presented at the 3rd AARC PhD Students' Conference entitled: *Language.Literature.Politics. 1918–2018. (Un)doing Nationalism and Resistance*, which was jointly organised by *Colloquium: New Philologies*, the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, and the Alps-Adriatic-Rectors' Conference. The conference took place between 20 and 22 September 2018 at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt/Celovec, Austria.

Situated in the Alps-Adriatic region, a region that is gifted and haunted alike by its very special historical and sociocultural situation as the point of intersection between three language communities, various systems of beliefs and thoughts as well as economic and political experiences, the conference location of Klagenfurt/Celovec seems particularly apt for intellectual exchange and debate on issues of nationalisms, both in their historical dimension as well as their contemporary resurfacing. It is a region characterised by experiences of generations of the local population that were able to navigate between these various linguistic, cultural, and political systems as part of their everyday lives, within and beyond existing national boundaries.

The conference was informed by the notion that, although it may seem to many as a case of *déjà vu*, we actually bear witness to a cyclical turn of events in history. The world shortly after World War I seems very similar in many ways to the current state of affairs in the sense that another major push against multinationalism, multiculturalism, and globalism is clearly evident. Mirroring 1918 and the nationalist movements of the time, 2018 seems to bring a strong (or at least a loud) return to nationalism. After a long general movement into globalisation, unification, and multiculturalism that has marked the period succeeding World War II, nationalism, particularly in the Western

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World, seems more pronounced today than any time in the last 70 years. It is particularly rampant in the political discourse of today. On the other hand, supranational entities such as the EU, seem to be deriving new motivation precisely from the revival of these nationalistic tendencies. A thorough look is hence needed into the languages not only of nationalisms, but also of critique and resistance to them, especially into their narrative, rhetoric, and argumentative strategies, as well as their use of metaphors, images, and other devices of communication. As environments are linguistically classified in different ways, both culturally and cognitively, understanding the various experiences that influence these classifications is crucial for us to be able to account for the different modes of the human condition expressed by language that socially constructs us.

The papers gathered in this issue, thus, reflect upon a variety of issues related to the central theme of the conference, i.e. the various ways in which nationalisms are being articulated, negotiated, challenged, and played out in literary, linguistic, and cultural forms of expression.